Exploitation of Mineral Sands found in Coastal Belt in Kerala

5632. THAYIL JOHN ANJALOSE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to exploit the mineral sands found in the coastal belt in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether industries are proposed to be set up to make finished products out of the mineral raw material found therein; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Indian Rare Earths Ltd. (IRE) is already operating the mineral sands separation plant at Chavara to produce minerals such as Illuminate, Rutile, Zircon, Sillimanite etc. Kerala Minerals and Metals Limited (KMML) a Kerala State Government Undertaking is also carrying out the mining of the beach sands minerals and in addition operating a plant to produce Titanium Dioxide (Ti02). Further, the company is examining the feasibility of exploiting the minerals in Kayamkulam Belt known as Ayiramthengu. IRE is also studying a proposal from the Government of Kerala to establish a joint venture to exploit the heavy minerals in the Neendakara area.

(c) and (d). The requirements of downstream industries in the state of Kerala for production of Ti02 are already being met from the production by these units. The principle downstream industries in the Kerala State consist of Titanium Dioxide (Ti02) Plant at Chavara (KMML) and Trivandrum (Titanium Products Ltd.) and Rare Earths Plant at Alwaye (IRE). The existing downstream industries elsewhere in the country are also drawing their requirement of Beach Sand Mineral from IRE. Further, it is proposed to set up production facilities for Titanium sponge. R&D work for this is underway.

Elections of Delegates in Kendriya Bhandar

5633. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) when the elections for the delegates in the Kendriya Bhandar were held last;

(b) when these were due and the reasons for not holding the same in time; and

(c) the steps taken to conduct the elections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Elections of the delegates in ten Kendriya Bhandar were last held in August & September, 1983.

(b) and (c). As per the provisions contained in the old Bye-laws the elections were to be held every 4 years, whereas under the revised Bye-laws which came into force on 10.4.1987, they were to be held every 3 years. However as the revised Bye-laws have been challenged in the Delhi High Court, the office of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies has advised that election of the delegates may be held after the issue of the revised Bye-laws is settled by the High Court.

Irregularities in Rishikesh Unit of I.E.P.L.

5634. SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: